



HIGH MORTALITY AND MALNUTRITION RATES IN GASHAMO, SOMALI REGION

Preliminary findings from a recent SCF-UK nutrition survey in Gashamo, Degehabur Zone in Somali Region indicate high malnutrition and mortality rates, especially amongst children. The preliminary findings were presented at the Somali Region Coordination Meeting in Jijiga on 18 January. The finalized survey will be available in early February. For more information contact: scukethiopia@savethechildren.org.uk

GLOBAL GATHERING OF PASTORALISTS

The first ever gathering of pastoralists from around the world will meet in Turmi, South Omo, in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region from 29 January – 2 February. UNOCHA Pastoralist Communication Initiative is organising the gathering and 200 pastoralists, government representatives and UN and donor organisations from 23 different countries are expected to attend. The gathering presents unique opportunity for pastoralists to exchange information, experiences and look at ways of negotiating to improve their lives. Pastoralists are historically and geographically marginalised, suffer from food insecurity, famine and conflict but nonetheless they constitute a vital component of the economies of vast areas of the globe through production of livestock and care for the environment. The gathering aims to provide unprecedented opportunity for pastoralist representatives and government to meet in an appropriate environment, debate, find common ground and create alliances between pastoralists of the world. For more information contact: globalpastoralistgathering@yahoo.co.uk

THE MILLENNIUM PROJECT REPORT LAUNCHED

The Global Millennium Development Project Report 'Investing in Development' was launched in Addis Ababa at UNECA on 18 January. Hosted by the UN Country Team and the Government of Ethiopia, guest speakers included Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, African Union chair person Professor Alpha Omar Konare, and UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador Meseret Defar. The report outlines a comprehensive strategy to combat global poverty, hunger and disease, through cost effective measures that together could cut extreme poverty in half and radically improve the lives of at least one billion people in poor developing countries by 2015. For more information contact: susanne.dam-hansen@undp.org

WORKSHOP ON CHRONIC VULNERABILITY INDEX

The Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Commission's (DPPC) Early Warning Department in collaboration with the WFP/VAM unit conducted a two day workshop, from 17-18 January, to finalise and adopt the draft Chronic Vulnerability Index (CVI) standard as a national document and reference point. Over forty participants representing UN agencies, NGOs and government attended the workshop and discussed what indicators should make up the standard vulnerability index. Since 1999 a multi agency Early Warning Working Group led by the Early Warning Department of the Federal DPPC has been conducting primary and secondary data analysis, vulnerability profile studies and discussion to develop one common database and composite CVI for each woreda including pastoral areas. For more information contact: ocha-eth@un.org

WORLD VISION CONDUCTS DISASTER MONITORING VISIT TO AFAR

The humanitarian situation in Afar where critical water and food shortages has provoked animal death, unusual migration of livestock and human suffering remains of great concern. The regional government has reportedly completed an Emergency Action Plan but the Federal DPPC is yet to receive it. Up to 60,000 to 70,000 heads of cattle have arrived in the neighboring regions according to the NGO World Vision, which has recently conducted a disaster-monitoring visit to Samera, Aysaita and Dubti districts of the region and to neighboring districts of Amhara Region (13 and 16 January). According to World Vision pastoralists from the region have arrived in Oromiya zone of Amhara Region and Raya valley of Tigray Region. Massive movement of people to Aysaita district is creating pressure on local communities, resources and ongoing development programs. The team concluded that immediate and appropriate interventions are necessary to mitigate the impact of the drought in the region and has called for urgent general rations, supplementary feeding for children, blankets, veterinary drugs provision and water tankering operations. For more information contact: wveth@telecom.net.et

ETHIOPIAN ORTHODOX TEWHIDO CHURCH HIV/AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL STRATEGY

The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewhido Church has developed a five year Strategic Plan 2004/5 - 2008/9, to mobilise its resources and infrastructure (40,000 churches and monasteries) throughout the country in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The plan sets a target to support 200,000 orphans and vulnerable children and 200,000 people living with HIV/AIDS over the next five years. The Strategic Plan will be launched at the end of January 2005. For more information please call 251-1-550577.